

**REMARKS**

Preliminarily, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to return Form PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) for the Information Disclosure Statement filed March 25, 2004 (copy attached).

Additionally, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to return initialed Form PTO-1449 for the Information Disclosure Statement filed March 1, 1999 (copy attached).

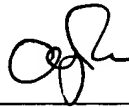
As indicated in the Advisory Action dated April 23, 2004, claims 11 and 13 are allowed. Claims 1, 3, 5-10 and 12 have been canceled, to thereby place the case in condition for allowance. Applicants reserve the right to file a Continuation application directed to the canceled subject matter.

Withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of claims 11 and 13 is respectfully requested.

In the event that the Examiner believes that it may be helpful to advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number indicated below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: May 19, 2004